

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 March 2005 (03.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/019828 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G01N 33/68**,
33/53, 33/569

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/CA2004/001503

(22) International Filing Date: 20 August 2004 (20.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/496,381 20 August 2003 (20.08.2003) US
2,437,675 20 August 2003 (20.08.2003) CA
60/497,362 21 August 2003 (21.08.2003) US
2,437,999 21 August 2003 (21.08.2003) CA

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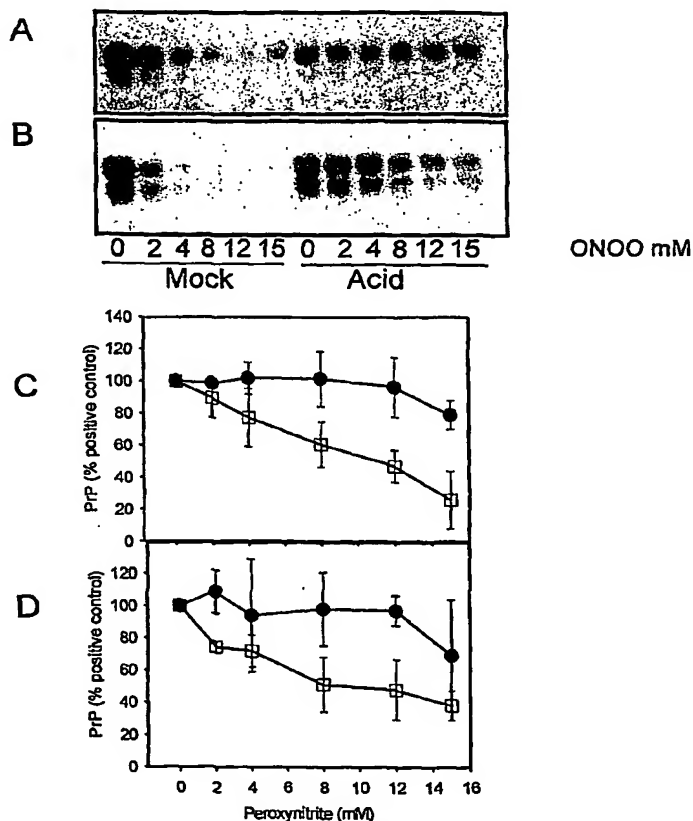
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **EPITOPE PROTECTION ASSAY AND METHOD FOR DETECTING PROTEIN CONFORMATIONS**



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an epitope pro-
tection assay for use in diagnosis, prognosis and thera-
peutic intervention in diseases, for example, involving
polypeptide aggregation, such as prion infections. The
methods of the invention first block accessible polypep-
tide target epitope with a blocking agent. After dena-
turation of the polypeptide, a detecting agent is used to
detect protein with target epitope that was inaccessible
during contact with the blocking agent.

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SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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